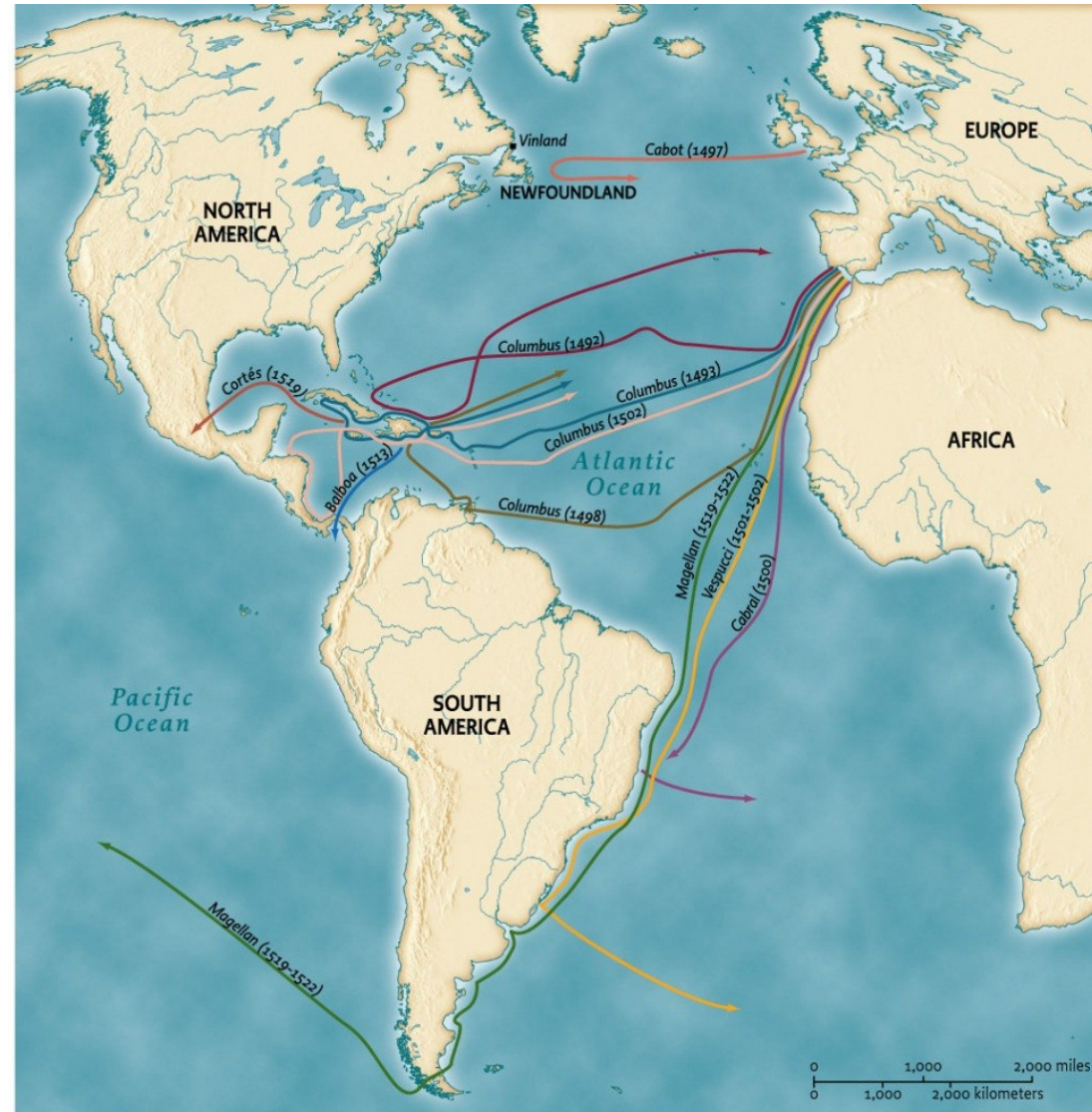


England's Failed Conquistadors: The Virginia Colony



Columbus



The Spanish in America



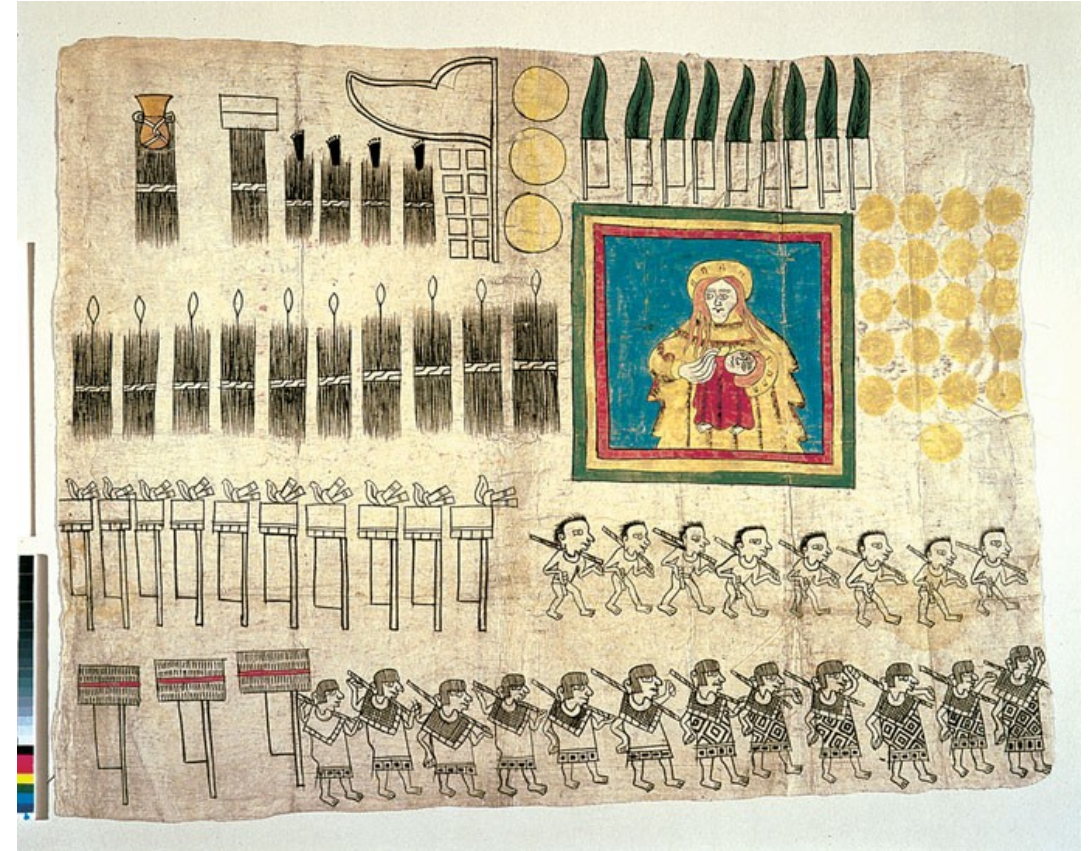
Las Casas and the “Black Legend”

- Now this infinite multitude of Men [Indians] are by the Creation of God innocently simple, altogether void of and averse to all manner of Craft, Subtlety and Malice, and most Obedient and Loyal Subjects to their Native Sovereigns; and behave themselves very patiently, submissively and quietly towards the Spaniards, to whom they are subservient and subject...
- The Spaniards first assaulted the innocent Sheep, so qualified by the Almighty, like most cruel tigers, wolves, and lions, hunger-starved, studying nothing, for the space of Forty Years, after their first landing, but the Massacre of these Wretches...
- Of Three Millions of Persons, which lived in Hispaniola itself, there is at present but the inconsiderable remnant of scarce Three Hundred.
- Now the ultimate end and scope that incited the Spaniards to endeavor the Extirpation and Desolation of this People, was Gold only...
- The above-mentioned number of People died without understanding the true Faith or Sacraments.



The Mature Spanish Empire

- Urban, populous, and sophisticated
- Incorporated Native Americans
- Produced immense wealth
 - Commodity production
 - Plunder
 - Mines



Other European Empires

France and the Netherlands



Portugal



Early Colonization in America

- 1492 – Columbus “discovers” America.
- 1521 – Cortez conquers the Aztec Empire.
- 1532 – Pizarro conquers the Incan Empire.
- 1530s – Portugal begins to colonize Brazil.
- 1607 – England founds Jamestown

Why was England late to colonization?

- A second-rate power
- Years of internal instability
 - Civil war (the War of the Roses)
 - The Protestant Reformation (next class!)
- Colonization efforts were directed towards Ireland.



Why Colonize America?

- *A Discourse Concerning Western Planting*
 - Written in 1584 by Richard Hakluyt
- Intended to convince Elizabeth I to support the colonization of America.
- Made several arguments for colonization.
 - To spread Protestantism
 - To increase English power in Europe (Spain!)
 - To obtain access to colonial goods
 - To get rid of “excess” population



Richard Hakluyt

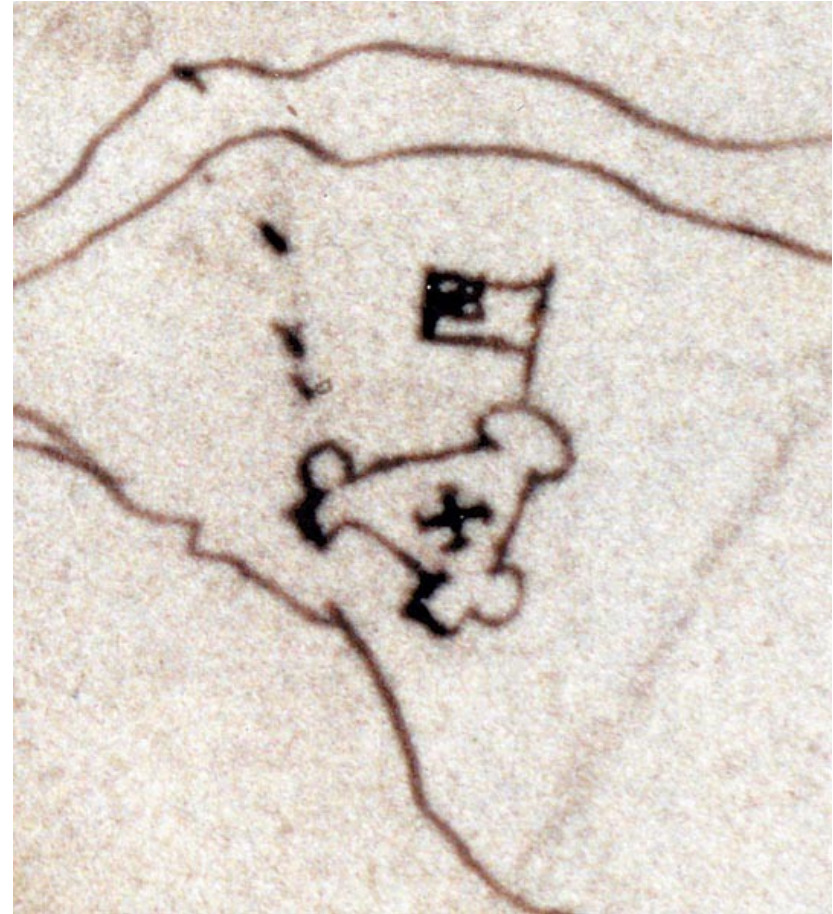
The Virginia Company and Jamestown

- Founded in London in 1606
- A privately owned stock-company
- Chartered by the government
- Profit-oriented



The Jamestown Debacle

- The wrong types of colonists
- Poorly located
- Poorly organized
- Initially found no source of profit
- A deathtrap



Contemporary image of Jamestown Fort

The English and the Powhatan

- The English expected to dominate and ultimately rule any Indians they encountered.
- The Powhatan expected the English to recognize their local supremacy and ally with them as a subordinate group.
- Low-level warfare became the norm.
- The Powhatan launched two major assaults on the English in 1622 and 1644.



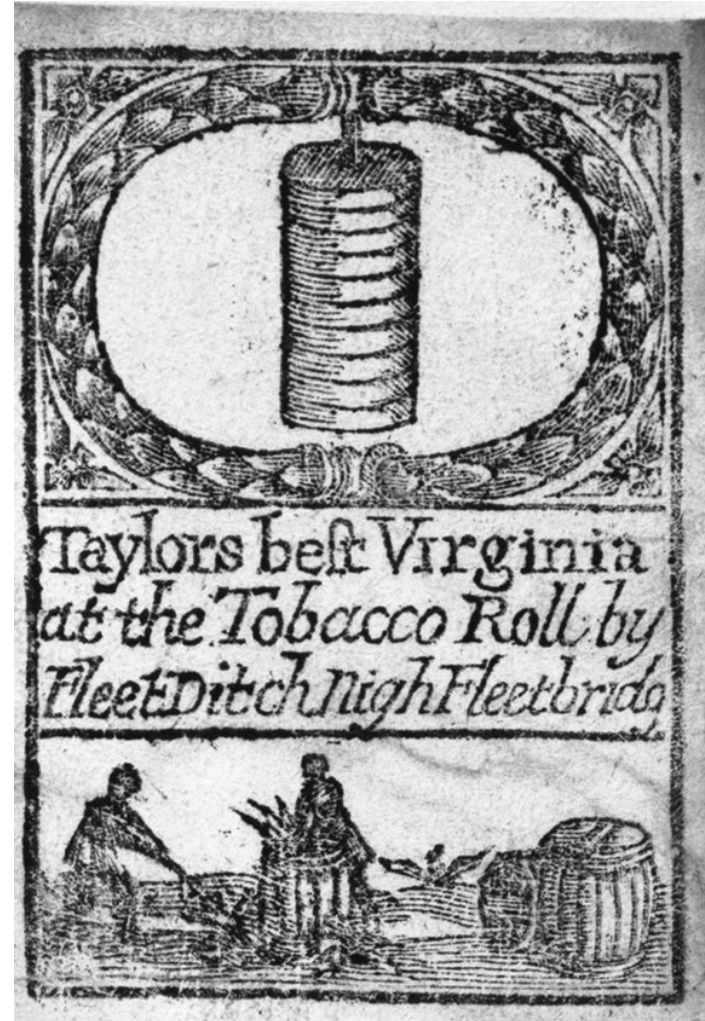
The Salvation

- Why did Virginia make it?
 - The Virginia Company reformed itself.
 - Allowed the private ownership of land and labor
 - Gave colonist more autonomy and control

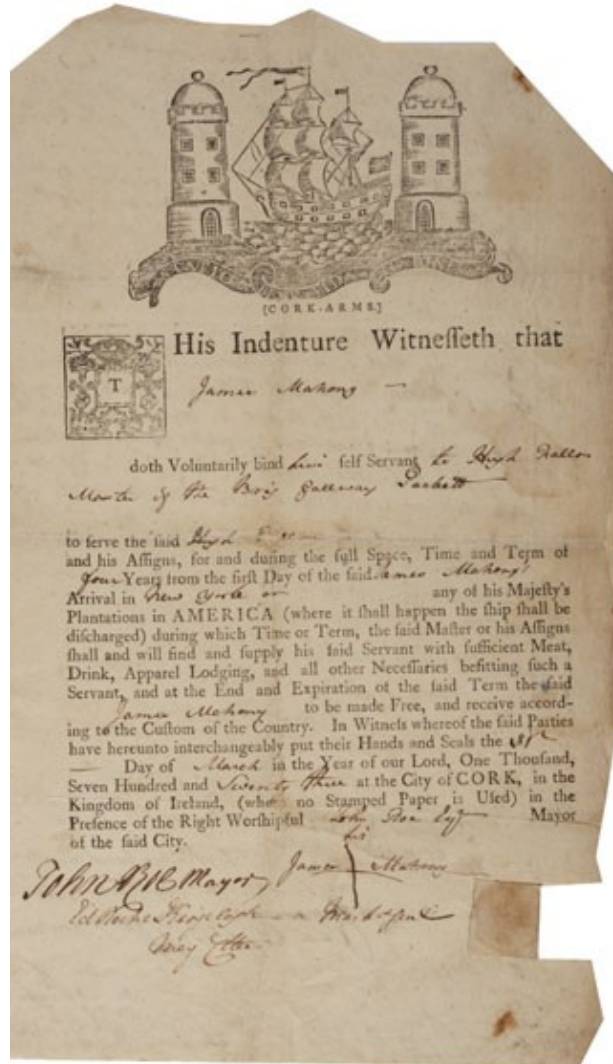
• **Tobacco**

The Tobacco Colony

- Tobacco
 - A New World crop
 - In high demand in Europe
 - Introduced in Virginia in 1611
 - Production increased rapidly
 - Gave an economic basis to the colony



Labor



Labor

- Indentured servants
 - The main source of labor.
 - Bound for a period of years.
 - Could be physically disciplined.
 - Could be bought and sold.
 - Given money and some goods after their term of service ended.
 - Mostly English.
- African slaves
 - Brought to the colony by 1619 at the latest.
 - Rare until the late 1600s.

The Virginia “Model” of Colonization

- Materialistic goals (to own land and/or get rich)
- Individualistic (little community)
- Religion relatively unimportant (but not irrelevant)
- Mistreatment and exclusion of Native Americans
- Autonomous governance (local control)
- Dependence on bound labor (indentured servants)
- Large economic inequality (those with land and labor got rich)
- **How did this model compare to the model in New England?**